

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 05756 221707Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 CTME-00 /126 W
-----021540 230236Z /70

R 221510Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2775

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 5756

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, VE
SUBJECT: OIL COMPANY PROBLEMS; COMPTROLLER'S CLAIMS

REF: CARACAS 5685

1. DURING A FAREWELL DINNER JUNE 21 BOTH PRESIDENT PEREZ AND MINISTER OF FINANCE, SEPARATELY, TOOK THE AMBASSADOR ASIDE AND ASSURED HIM FLATLY THAT THE COMPTROLLER'S CLAIMS WOULD NOT BE SUSTAINED BY THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT. THE PRESIDENT SAID EFFORTS WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN TO SPEED SUPREME COURT DECISION IN THE PETROFINA CASE (REFTEL). THIS WOULD ESTABLISH THE LEGAL PRECEDENT FOR ALL THE OTHER CASES. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE WANTED TO ASSURE THE AMBASSADOR THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO POSSIBILITY THAT AN ADVERSE DECISION WOULD BE MADE.

2. THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, IN HIS REMARKS TO THE AMBASSADOR, WENT SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT WHATEVER THE JUDICIAL ACTION, THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT ACQUIESCE IN ENFORCEMENT OF COMPTROLLER'S CLAIMS BECAUSE OF "REASONS OF STATE." THE MINISTER WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS GOING TO CALL IN THE COMPANIES ONE BY ONE AND ASSURE THEM THAT THEY SHOULD NOT WORRY ABOUT THE COMPTROLLER'S CLAIMS.
VAKY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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